

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 06346 232229Z
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 ABF-01
OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /121 W
-----240619Z 113112 /14

R 231958Z DEC 76
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1884

UNCLAS USUN 6346

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, UN
SUBJECT: UN BUDGET - US EXPLANATION OF VOTE ON PROGRAM
BUDGET ADD-ON

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF UN EXPLANATION OF ITS VOTE OF ABSTENTION ON
THE \$38.1 MILLION IN GROSS APPROPRIATIONS WHICH GA APPROVED
DECEMBER 22, 1976, AS AN ADD-ON TO THE 1976-77 PROGRAM BUDGET.
VOTE WAS 119-10(SOVIET BLOC)-1(US). STATEMENT APPROVED BY GOVERNOR
SCRANTON WAS MADE BY AMBASSADOR MYERSON.

QUOTE

MY DELEGATION REGRETS THAT IT HAS BEEN PRESENTED WITH REVISED
BUDGETARY ESTIMATES FOR THE TWO-YEAR PERIOD 1976-1977 WHICH IT
CANNOT SUPPORT. THIS ORGANIZATION ADOPTED SEVERAL YEARS AGO A
"PROGRAM BUDGET" APPROACH TO FINANCING EXPENDITURES FOR THE
ACTIVITIES WHICH IT CARRIES OUT. MOST IMPORTANTLY, THAT APPROACH
CALLED FOR FORWARD PLANNING THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF A
MEDIUM-TERM PLAN WHICH IN TURN BECAME THE BASIS FOR FORMULATING
AND IMPLEMENTING THE BIENNIAL PROGRAM BUDGET, THE SECOND FOR
WHICH COVERS THE YEARS 1976-1977. LAST YEAR AFTER A THOROUGH
REVIEW AND EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTED
A PROGRAM BUDGET FOR THE CURRENT BIENNIUM AND APPROPRIATED \$745
MILLION TO FINANCE IT.
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NOW, JUST ONE YEAR LATER AND AT THE MID-POINT OF THE BIENNIUM,
WE FIND OURSELVES FACED WITH A DECISION ON WHETHER TO SUPPORT
THE APPROPRIATION BY THIS ASSEMBLY OF AN ADDITIONAL \$38 MILLION.
FURTHERMORE, WE FACE THE REAL PROSPECT THAT NEXT YEAR THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGAIN WILL BE FACED WITH REVISED ESTIMATES

AND A REQUEST FOR A FURTHER SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR THIS SAME 1976-1977 BIENNIAL.

THE SITUATION IN WHICH WE FIND OURSELVES IS TESTING THE LIMITS OF TOLERANCE. A BIENNIAL BUDGET QUITE CLEARLY IS TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR A TWO YEAR PERIOD. WHEN MONEY IS APPROPRIATED TO RUN AN ORGANIZATION FOR TWO YEARS, THAT ORGANIZATION MUST OPERATE DURING THAT PERIOD WITHIN THE AMOUNT OF MONEY APPROPRIATED.

WE RECOGNIZE AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, THAT THIS IS NOT A STATIC WORLD, AND THAT PROGRAMS WILL CHANGE. NEVERTHELESS, THIS DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT INCREASED EXPENDITURES MUST BE INCURRED--ON THE CONTRARY, WE BELIEVE THAT FOR EACH CHANGE WITHIN THE BIENNIAL REQUIRING INCREASED EXPENDITURES THERE SHOULD BE AN OFFSETTING REDUCTION. PRIORITIES MUST BE ESTABLISHED AND ADHERED TO. LESS-PRESSING PROGRAMS MUST BE REDUCED. OBSOLETE AND MARGINAL PROGRAMS MUST BE PHASED OUT. THIS ORGANIZATION MUST NOT ATTEMPT TO ISOLATE ITSELF FROM THE ECONOMIC REALITIES, OFTEN TIMES HARSH, WHICH CONFRONT ITS MEMBER STATES. INFLATION, FOR EXAMPLE, ERODES BUDGETS OF INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES, AS IT DOES THAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

THE UNITED NATIONS HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD AND TO ITS MEMBER STATES WHICH PROVIDE ITS RESOURCES TO MAKE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT OPTIMUM USE IS MADE OF THOSE RESOURCES. WE CAN EXPECT NO LESS. WE CAN ACCEPT NO LESS.

MY GOVERNMENT IS DIRECTED BY ITS PEOPLE TO ACT PRUDENTLY, ESPECIALLY DURING THESE TIMES OF FINANCIAL STRINGENCY. IT REQUIRES AT UNCLASSIFIED

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THIS TIME SPECIAL SACRIFICES OF ITS PEOPLE. IT IS ENTITLED TO EXPECT A SIMILAR PRUDENCE ON THE PART OF THE UNITED NATIONS. IN THE FACE OF REALITIES, MY GOVERNMENT CANNOT QUIETLY WITNESS THE PROLIFERATION OF NEW AND EXPANDED PROGRAMS NO MATTER HOW DESIRABLE WITHOUT THE REDUCTION OR ELIMINATION OF OTHERS.

MY DELEGATIONS REGRETS THAT IT CANNOT SUPPORT THE REVISED BUDGET ESTIMATES. MR. PRESIDENT, WE SHALL ABSTAIN IN THE VOTE. UNQUOTE
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USUNN06346
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760472-0083
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761215/aaaaamrr.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUN 2004 by chengls>; APPROVED <20 DEC 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UN BUDGET - US EXPLANATION OF VOTE ON PROGRAM BUDGET ADD-ON FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF UN EXPLANATION OF ITS VOTE OF
TAGS: AORG, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006